

Unattended Children Policy

The Freetown Public Libraries welcome children of all ages and strives to create a warm, inviting learning environment. The Libraries offer services and programs that encourage children to develop a love of books and reading. However, the Libraries are public buildings, and the well-being of young children left alone at the Libraries is a serious concern. Young children are not safe when left unattended in a library or any other public place. In addition, children left alone for long periods of time can become bored, frightened or disruptive. The responsibility for children using the Libraries rests with the child's parent/guardian or a designated adult caregiver.

The safety and well being of every child is very important and to ensure their protection, Freetown Public Libraries has adopted the following policy.

1. Children 12 years old and younger must be accompanied and supervised by a parent/guardian or designated adult caregiver at all time in the Library.
2. Children twelve years old and younger are not allowed to be left in the Library alone. Parents/guardians or caregivers cannot drop their children under age of twelve off at the library and pick them up at a later time
3. Parents/caregivers are responsible for the conduct of the children under their supervision while in the Library. If a child's conduct interferes with another patrons' ability to use the Library in violation of this policy, the child and his/her parent/caregiver will be asked to leave the building.
4. Parents/caregivers must not leave the Library while their children, 12 years old and younger, are attending a Library sponsored program.
5. Children old enough to use the Library alone should be familiar with hours of service. A child, old enough to use the Library alone, whose conduct interferes with another patrons' ability to use the Library in violation of this policy will be asked to leave the building. Children should know how to reach a parent or caregiver during their visit.
6. The Library Staff is not responsible for supervising children left alone when the Library is closing, but will make an effort to contact a parent/guardian or adult caregiver. If arrangements cannot be made for immediate pick up, the Freetown Police Department will be contacted.
7. The only time that this policy is not enforced is when a child comes into the library just to return materials that they or their parent/guardian have previously checked out of the library

This policy was originally written and approved by the Board of Library Trustees of the Freetown Public Libraries - December 21, 2017

This policy was reviewed and approved by the Board of Library Trustees of the Freetown Public Libraries – April 15, 2021